

Mormon Battalion, LDS Church

Elisha Smith Purported Gravesite

Nine Miles West of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona

TRAIL SEGMENT

2. Main Command

TRAIL DATE

8 Dec 1846

DEDICATION DATE

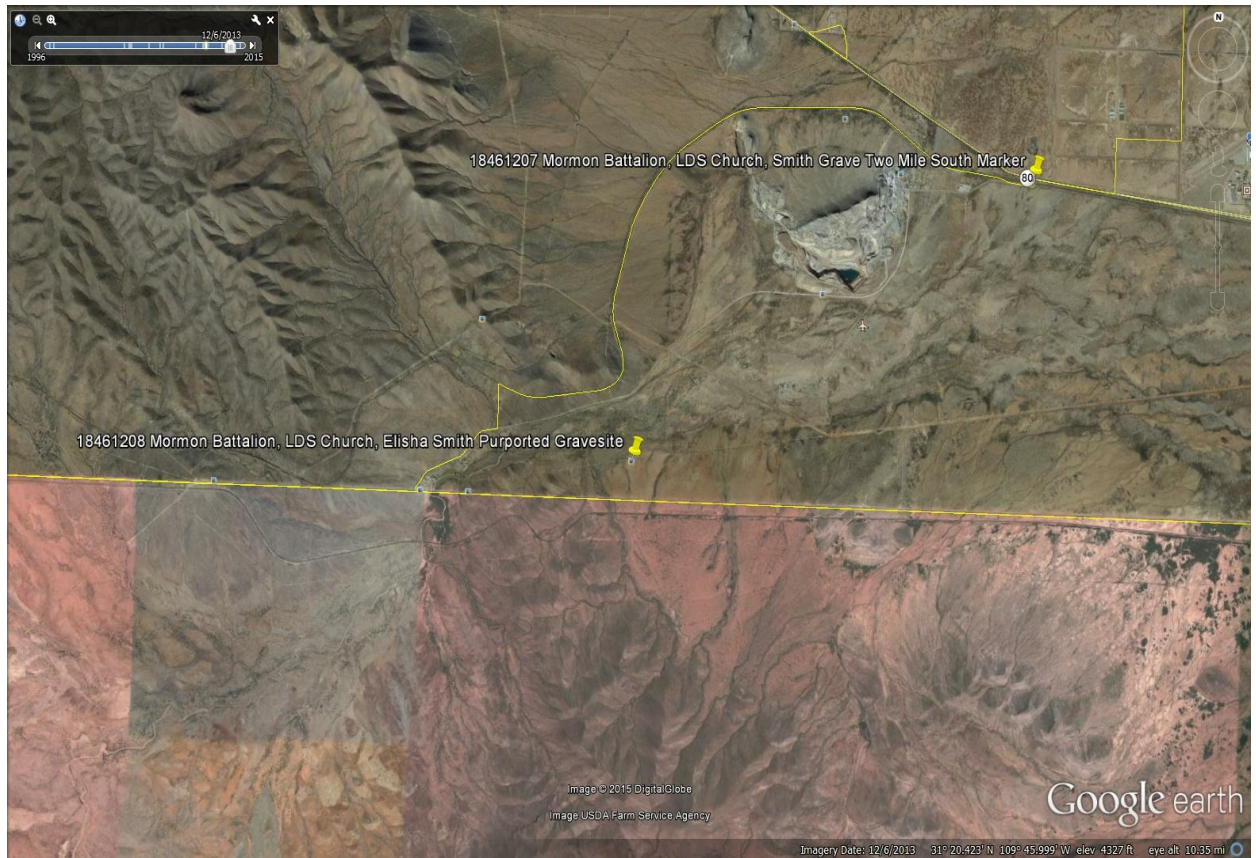
1960

GPS COORDINATES

31° 20.258' N

109° 45.978' W

WGS84



Google Earth™ image, 6 December 2013



Google Earth™ photo by "Mormon Battalion," unknown date

Description

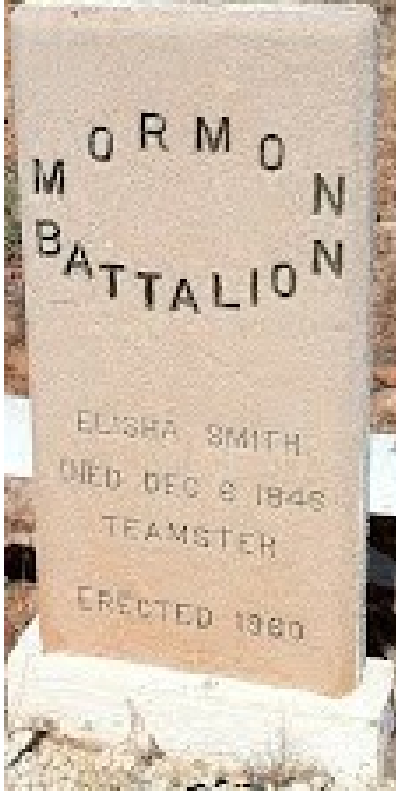
This purported gravesite is surrounded by low white metal fence and tan concrete garden weed barriers, and covered with white aggregate stone. The gravestone is tan with black engraved lettering. This gravesite is located 0.25 mile north of United States-Mexico border. We have no proof that this is the actual grave of Elisha Smith. Kevin Henson, a Mormon Battalion Association Historian, notes: “[This is] Reportedly the grave for Elisha Smith who died on Dec 8, 1846 after 4 days illness. We note that the location does not correspond to Levi Hancock’s description for the gravesite.” To the best of our knowledge, the Mormon Battalion camped about 1 mile south of the twin buttes and about 1 mile east of this purported gravesite, near the end of North Stone Ridge Road. The actual gravesite is somewhere nearby.

Driving Directions

Nine miles west of Douglas, Arizona at Milepost 356 on Arizona Route 80 between Cochise County Junior College - Douglas Campus and the twin buttes, turn south on West Paul Spur Road, cross abandoned railroad bed, and go 1 mile west to entrance to limestone quarry. Turn left and drive approximately 3 miles southwest on East Border Road. Get out and walk about 0.4 mile south toward United States-Mexico border.

Inscription

Plaque 1 of 1.



Google Earth™ photo by "Mormon Batallion,"
unknown date

MORMON
BATTALION
ELISHA SMITH
DIED DEC 8 1846
TEAMSTER

ERECTED 1960

History

We have no provenance for this gravesite marked in 1960 by unknown donor(s). The tan gravestone appears to use the same format as numerous black slate "Mormon Battalion, LDS Church" trail monuments erected in Southern Arizona during 1960, but does NOT include the characteristic "LDS Church" inside the "Mormon Battalion" arcs or the "MF" brand in the lower right corner.

Credits

Google Earth™ ground photo by "Mormon Batallion" [incorrect spelling] bears no provenance.
